

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough examination of the present application. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 2, and 7-19 are now present in this application. Claims 1 and 14 are independent. By this amendment, claims 3-6 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 18 and 19 have been added, and claims 1, 2, 7, and 11-13 have been amended.

Priority Under 35 U.S.C. § 119

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicants' claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, and receipt of the certified priority document.

Information Disclosure Citation

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the references supplied with the Information Disclosure Statements filed February 13, 2006 and April 15, 2009, and for providing Applicants with initialed copies of the PTO-SB08 forms filed therewith.

Applicants note a separate Information Disclosure Statement was filed March 2, 2010. An initialed copy thereof is respectfully requested from the Examiner in the next Office Action.

Drawings

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that the drawings are accepted.

Restriction Requirement

The Examiner has made the Restriction Requirement final, and has withdrawn claims 14-17 from further consideration.

Examiner Interview

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during the telephone interview conducted on March 25, 2010. An Examiner Interview Summary was made of record as Paper No. 20100325.

During the interview, Applicants' representative discussed proposed changes to the claims in an attempt to place the claims in compliance with 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and to overcome the prior art rejections of record.

In particular, Applicants proposed amending independent claim 1 to recite a method for controlling a washing machine including, *inter alia*, supplying washing water a plurality of times to a tub of the washing machine to maintain a preset level, the supplying washing water step including the steps of initially supplying the washing water to the tub to the preset level, and resupplying the washing water a plurality of times to the tub to maintain the preset level; setting a total time period of the supplying steps according to the sensed laundry amount before the supplying steps; and setting a time period for the circulating step according to the sensed laundry amount before the circulating step.

The Examiner further suggested amending claim 1 to specify that after each of the supplying steps the water supply is stopped. The Examiner indicated that such an amendment would likely define over the art of record pending further consideration and/or search.

The claims have been amended in the manner discussed during the interview, and are believed to place the application into condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph

Claims 1-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed. The Examiner has set forth certain instances wherein the claim language is not clearly understood.

In order to overcome this rejection, Applicants have amended claims 1, 2, 7, and 11-13 to address the deficiencies specifically pointed out by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims, as amended, particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter

which Applicants regard as the invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1-10, 12, and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Fukuzawa. Further, claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukuzawa. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Complete discussions of the Examiner's rejections are set forth in the Office Action, and are not being repeated here.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 has been amended to recite a combination of steps in a method for controlling a washing machine including, *inter alia*, "supplying washing water a plurality of times to a tub of the washing machine to maintain a preset level, the supplying washing water step including: initially supplying the washing water to the tub to the preset level and stopping the initial supply of water after reaching the preset level; and resupplying the washing water a plurality of times to the tub to maintain the preset level after the initial supplying step, each time stopping the supply of water after reaching the preset level."

Applicants respectfully submit that this combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 1 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Fukuzawa, as discussed more fully during the Examiner Interview discussed above. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

With regard to dependent claims 2 and 7-13, Applicants submit that claims 2 and 7-13 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 1, which is allowable for the reasons set forth above, and therefore claims 2 and 7-13 are allowable based on their dependence from claim 1, as well as for their additionally recited subject matter. Reconsideration and allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

Claims 18 and 19

Claims 18 and 19 have been added for the Examiner's consideration. Applicants submit that claims 18 and 19 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 1, and are therefore allowable based on their dependence from claim 1, which is believed to be allowable.

In addition, claims 18 and 19 recite further limitations which are not disclosed or made obvious by the applied prior art references.

Additional Cited References

Because the remaining references cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but have merely been cited to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

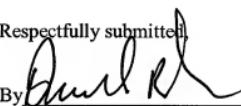
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Chad D. Wells, Registration No. 50,875 at the telephone number of the undersigned below to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Director is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge any fees required during the pendency of the above-identified application or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

Dated: April 5, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

By


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